Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8200

CONFIDENTIAL MONTEVIDEO 445

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MFM, UY

SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FONMIN BLANCO

REF: STATE 028274

- 1. TO GET IT INTO HIS HANDS BEFORE LONG CARNAVAL WEEKEND, I
 DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO AT HIS
 RESIDENCE LAST EVENING. BLANCO WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED AND ASKED ME
 TO THANK THE SECRETARY FOR HIS COURTESY AND THOUGHTFULNESS. HE
 ALSO SAID HE WAS MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE CONTINUING COINCIDENCE
 BETWEEN THEIR POINTS OF VIEW AS TO THE NEW DIALOGUE, THE UNFORTUNATE SUSPENSION OF THE MFM AND RELATED SUBJECTS. HE WAS
 ESPECIALLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL EXPLANATION
 FOR OUR NONATTENDANCE AT THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEETING HERE.
 HE SAID HE HAD TAPED FOR TV RELEASE ON SUNDAY NIGHT AN INTERVIEW
 IN WHICH, ON THIS SUBJECT, HE ATTEMPTED TO GIVE A BROADER PERSPECTIVE WHICH HE HOPED WOULD TEND TO PLACE A BETTER LIGHT ON THE
 U.S. DECISION NOT TO ATTEND.
- 2. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE APRIL OASGA MEETING, BLANCO SAID HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WHICH HE FEARED WAS DEVELOPING WITH THE U.S. ON THE ISSUE OF THE TRADE BILL INSPIRED PRINCIPALLY BY ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA. IN AN EFFORT TO INTRODUCE A NEW ANGLE OR POINT OF VIEW WHICH MIGHT BLUNT THE CONFRONTATION, AS WELL AS TO FOCUS ATTENTION ALSO ON AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT, HE TOLD ME IN CONFIDENCE THAT URUGUAY INTENDS TO INSCRIBE FOR THE MEETING AN AGENDA ITEM RELATING TO THE SITUATION OF COUNTRIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE RISE IN PETROLEUM PRICES AND OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SAID URUGUAY HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT IN ATLANTA LAST APRIL BUT

NOW HAS, IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEARS FEAR OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN THE STARK REALITY OF A \$107 MILLION DEFICIT ON OIL ACCOUNT. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY ADVANCE OBSERVATIONS THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE ON THIS ITEM.

3. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE PROMPT SENDING OF THIS LETTER AND THE THOUGHTS WHICH IT CONVEYED. CLEARLY THIS MEANT MUCH TO BLANCO PERSONALLY AND WILL HELP INSPIRE CONTINUATION OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE ROLE HE HAS BEEN PLAYING IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS. SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, US, UY, OAS, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (BLANCO, JUAN CARLOS)

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